(b) to what extent the State Governments can restrict the functions and powers entrusted to Panchayats under the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act; and

(c) whether Government propose to extend the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act to the areas mentioned in the sixth Schedule of the Constitution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VERMA): (a) and (b) The Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 provides that the Legislature of a State may, be law, endow the Panchayats with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-government and such law may contain provisions for the devolution of powers and responsibilities upon Panchayats at the appropriate level. Panchayati Raj is a State subject. The State Governments have already passed necessary legislation in this regard in consonance with the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 and are entrusting powers and functions to the Panchayats, However, this is a continuous process.

(c) At present there is no proposal to extend the provisions of Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 to the Sixth Schedule Areas in the country.

Revision of Norms and Financial Assistance for Old Age Pension

682. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2864 given in the Rajya Sabha on 19th December, 1996 and state:

(a) whether Government have since taken any final decision regarding proposal to revise the norms and financial assistance for old age pension under the National Social Assurance Scheme; and

(b) if so, the details of the revisions made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VERMA): (a) No, sir. The final decision has not yet been taken.

(b) Does not arise.

Financing Solar Pumps for Protected Water Supply Schemes

683. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether financial assistance under the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission is provided for the use of solar pumps for protected water Supply schemes all over the country;

(b) if so, the details of the funding pattern;

(c) whether any solar powered Protected Water Supply Schemes have been financed in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir. Financial assistance is considered on the basis of specific proposals from the States and where conventional source of energy is not available.

(b) 100% of the approved cost has been provided as Central assistance.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) 44 Solar Photo Voltaic Systems have been installed in Andhra Pradesh.

Drinking Water to the Residents of Bara Village in Pauri Garhwal District

684. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what action has been taken by the Garhwal Jal Sansthan, Pauri, District Pauri Garhwal, to meet the demand for

supply of drinking water to the residents of village Bara, Patti Edwalsyun, District Pauri Garhwal, Uttar Pradesh, pending with the authorities for the last three years;

(b) whether any fresh survey/inquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(c) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor and by when the residents would get drinking water facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VERMA): (a) and (c) The Garhwal Jal Sansthan has reported that the drinking water supply scheme for village Bara, Patti Edwalsyun, District Pauri is being maintained by them and the residents of village Bara are getting regular water supply. However, an estimate amounting to Rs.0.90 lakh has been prepared for improvement works.

(b) No, Sir.

Monitoring and Vigilance Committees for Rural Employment Schemes

685. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued instructions to the State Governments to set up Monitoring and vigilance Committees at the Block, District and State levels to monitor and exercise vigilance over implementation of various rural employment schemes;

(b) if so, the States which have followed the instructions and those which have not yet followed the same, so far;

(c) whether Government propose to issue fresh instructions to the State Governments in this regard; and

(d) whether Members of Parliament, MLAs of the area have also been included on such Committees by the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Governments of Mizoram, Assam, Kerala, Union Territory of Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli have informed that they have constituted the Monitoring and Vigilance Committees. Other State/Union Territories are in the process of constituting these committees.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Budget Allocations for Rural Poor and Weaker Sections in Punjab

686. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of budget allocations made in 1996-97 for various schemes and programmes sponsored by Government for the benefit of rural poor and weaker sections of society in Punjab, district-wise; and

(b) the effective measures being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VERMA): (a) The district-wise details of budget allocations made during 1996-97 in the State of Punjab for major schemes/programme viz. (i) IRDP, (ii) JRY, (iii) MWS, (iv) IAY, (v) ARWSP (vi) NSAP are given in the Annexure [*See Appendix* 180, *Annexure No.* 14]

(b) The effective measures taken by the Union Government include devising of detailed monitoring mechanism for various rural development programmes as also for rural employment and poverty alleviation programmes which consist, inter-alia, of obtaining periodical progress reports/returns, financial returns/audit reports, intensive field inspections, reviews and monitoring by committees and by senior officers with the State Secretaries Commissioners etc.